

REMARKS

Claim 1 recites:

A communication cable comprising:
a first optical fiber;
a first intermediate layer surrounding the first optical fiber, wherein the first intermediate layer includes a first electrical conductor, wherein the first electrical conductor comprises a first collection of metallic strands;
a first electrically insulating jacket surrounding the first intermediate layer;
a first metallic ferrule which couples to the first electrical conductor at a first end of the communication cable; and
a first crimping sleeve configured to slide up over a rear portion of the first metallic ferrule and to crimp the first collection of metallic strands onto said rear portion.

This combination of features is not taught by O'Brien. In particular, O'Brien does not teach or suggest a crimping sleeve configured to slide up over a rear portion of the first metallic ferrule as recited in claim 1. O'Brien never suggests that the crimp sleeve 12 is capable of sliding. Furthermore, even if, for the sake of argument, one were to assume that the crimp sleeve 12 was able to slide, it certainly does not slide up over a rear portion of a metallic ferrule. Thus, claim 1 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over O'Brien.

Claim 2 recites the first intermediate layer also includes first non-conductive strengthening material. The inner conductor 26 of O'Brien is composed entirely of conductive material. Thus, Claim 2 is additionally distinguished over O'Brien.

Claim 14 recites:

A method for terminating an opto-electronic cable with an opto-electronic connector, wherein the opto-electronic cable has an optical fiber, an intermediate layer comprising metallic strands surrounding the optical fiber and an electrically insulating jacket surrounding the metallic strands, the method comprising:

fixing the optical fiber in a fiber cavity within a metallic ferrule;
placing the metallic strands in proximity to a first external end portion of the metallic ferrule; and

sliding a metallic crimping sleeve over the metallic strands to crimp the metallic strands onto the first external end portion of the metallic ferrule thereby establishing an electrical contact.

This combination of features is not taught or suggested by O'Brien. In particular, O'Brien does not teach or suggest "placing the metallic strands in proximity to a first external end portion of the metallic ferrule" as recited in claim 14. The inner conductor 26 of O'Brien makes contact with an internal structure of a connector as illustrated in O'Brien Figure 2.

Furthermore, O'Brien does not teach or suggest "sliding a metallic crimping sleeve over the metallic strands to crimp the metallic strands onto the first external end portion of the metallic ferrule thereby establishing an electrical contact". As discussed above, the crimp sleeve 12 of O'Brien is not capable of sliding.

Even if, for the sake of argument, one were to consider the crimp sleeve 12 capable of sliding, it certainly does not slide over metallic strands to crimp the metallic stands onto an external end portion of a metallic ferrule as recited in claim 14.

Thus, claim 14 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over O'Brien.

Claim 17 recites:

A communication system comprising:
a hybrid cable comprising a first optical fiber, a first intermediate layer surrounding the first optical fiber, a first jacket surrounding the first intermediate layer, wherein the first intermediate layer includes a first electrical conductor, wherein the first intermediate layer also includes first non-conductive strengthening material;
a first communication device coupled to the first optical fiber and the first electrical conductor at a first end of the hybrid cable;
a second communication device coupled to first optical fiber and the first electrical conductor at a second end of the hybrid cable.

This combination of features is not taught or suggested by O'Brien. In particular, O'Brien never teaches or suggests that the first intermediate layer also includes a first non-

conductive strengthening material. Thus, claim 17 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over O'Brien.

On the Summary page of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 26 was objected to. However, the Office Action did not explicitly state any objection against claim 26. Clarification is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

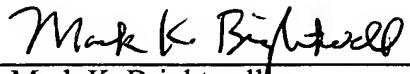
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5190-00107/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Mark K. Brightwell
Reg. No. 47,446
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: Jan 3, 2005 MKB